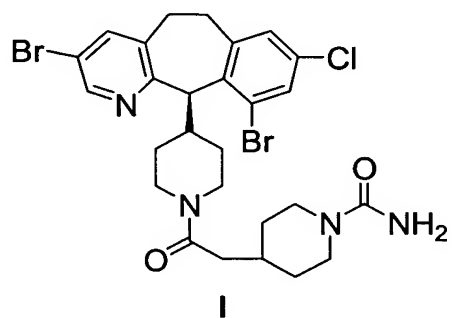


**ABSTRACT**

An enantioselective process for preparing intermediates useful in the preparation of the chiral tricyclic compound of formula I



5

is disclosed.